



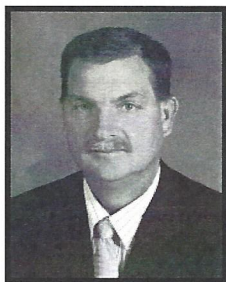
MATER DEI

Vita

A Tradition of Excellence in a Quality, Catholic, Caring Environment

VOL. 21 NO. 1

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Dennis A. Litteken

On behalf of the students, administration, faculty, and staff of Mater Dei I would like to wish you a very blessed Christmas season. Please know how appreciative we are of the many gifts of prayer, time, and treasure given by our alumni, parents, parishes, families, and friends.

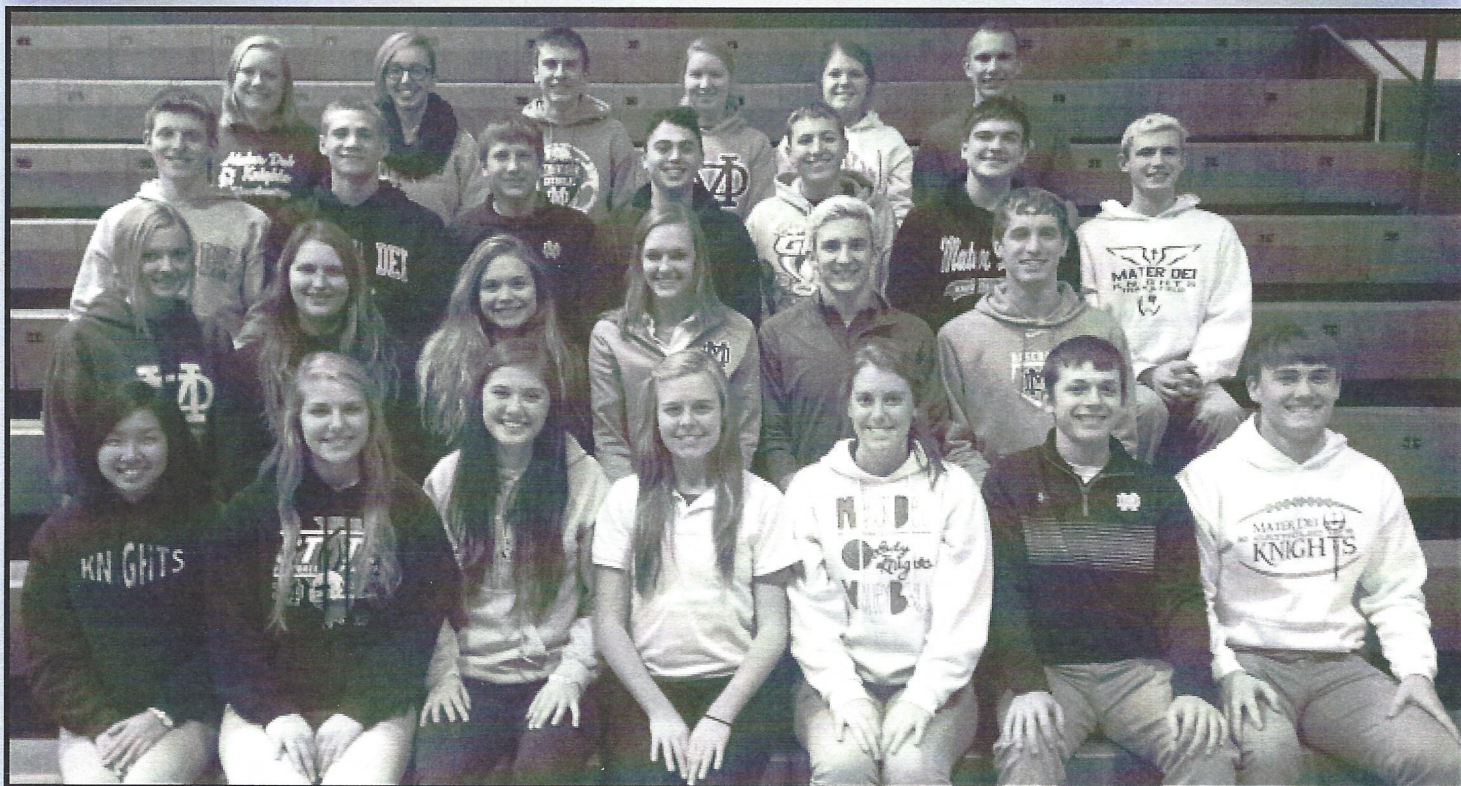
This edition of the VITA highlights just some of the ways in which Mater Dei puts forth the effort to grow in communion with the communities that make up Mater Dei. Our mission to educate, foster faith, and develop gospel values is dependent on the strength and support of the relationships we forge and cultivate along the way, as it has been for over 60 years!

As you gather together with your family and friends this Christmas season, please take time to thank God for all you have and all you will gain throughout the New Year. I challenge you to remember to "Keep Christ in Christmas" for the benefit of our Mater Dei family, community, country, and world in which we live.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis A. Litteken, '79
Principal

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS



(Front, L to R) Annie Kuentler, Erica Hitpas, Margo Lampe, Sophia Lager, Tori Arentsen, Austin Gebke, Trent Johnson, (2nd row) Sarah Schriewer, Sarah Maller, Callie Becker, Sara Knipmann, Otto Stark, Adam Gall, (3rd row) Peyton Kreke, Noah Gerdes, Nick Schmitz, Will Harad, Nick Mensing, Brett Kaufman, Keegan Spirek, (Back row) Anna Knebel, Amber Litteken, Branden Billhartz, Corynn Henrichs, Madison Peppenhorst, Ethan Schumacher. Missing from the photo is Gabrielle Ludwig.

MATER DEI – BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES

Mater Dei strives to build and strengthen relationships with its students, parents, families, alumni, and friends that make up the MD Community.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Mater Dei homerooms participated in the annual canned food drive hosted by the Mater Dei National Honor Society. This friendly competition helps build homeroom cohesiveness and class unity. A new record was set for this year's drive with 2,718 items donated!



Packing donated items for transport to the food pantry are Quinn Cutler, Drew Tommies, and Myah Beckemeyer.

To get a sense of familiarity, freshmen are put into mentor groups at the beginning of the school year and these groups meet throughout the year for fellowship.



Members of Team Huelsmann (Mrs. Kathy Huelsmann's mentor group) are (front) Connor Vogel, Andrew Stevenson, (back) Quinton Fruend, Ryan Clancy, Reese Lampe, Tyler Schniers, Ben Kassen, Brandon Huelsmann, Caleb Zurliene, Alex Peterson, and Mrs. Huelsmann.

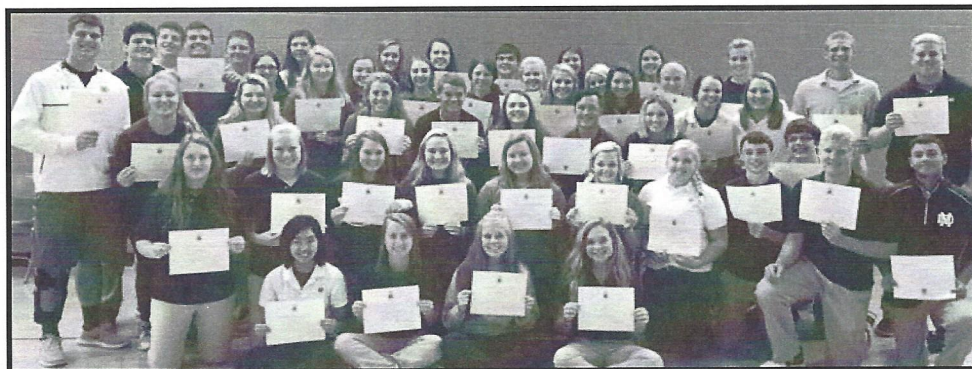


Freshman girls are enjoying their time at the Freshman Tailgate.

Homecoming is celebrated in the fall to promote school and class unity as the student body participates in Costume Day, T-Shirt Day, Talent/Lip Sync Show, and the spirited flag football game that pits the senior girls vs. junior girls.

CHURCH COMMUNITY

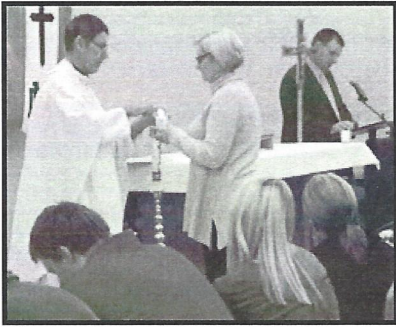
Fifty-three MD seniors completed Eucharistic minister training offered at Mater Dei and were presented with their certificates at the Homecoming Mass. These students are now able to serve as Eucharistic ministers at Mater Dei and in their parishes.



Serving the church are the newly certified Eucharistic ministers.

Mater Dei celebrates seven all-school Masses throughout the school year, including two feast days (All Saints Day and the Immaculate Conception) and an Ash Wednesday Mass. Parents, alumni, and friends are invited to celebrate Mass with the students, faculty, and staff at all of its Masses, which usually begin at 9:40 a.m. in the auxiliary gym.

CHURCH COMMUNITY *(Continued)*



Candles are presented and lit in memory of deceased loved ones at the Memorial Mass.

In keeping with the U.S. Bishops' pastoral on Catholic education and Mater Dei's philosophy, each religion course at Mater Dei includes a service component designed to aid the Community of Believers to involve themselves in personal acts of loving concern for others as well as actions that seek for justice and peace, "...service to the Christian Community and the entire human community." (#14 To Teach As Jesus Did, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, November, 1972.)

Once a year, Mater Dei brings together families who have experienced the death of a loved one and for whom Mater Dei received memorials in order to offer shared prayers and consolation through its Memorial Mass.

Seniors have the option at Mater Dei to earn their fourth year religion credit by serving as Faith Formation teachers in area elementary classrooms. The thirty-seven seniors who participated in this program for the 2016-2017 school year help promote the mission of the church as well as the mission of Mater Dei.

Mater Dei's Pro-Life Group promotes the universal church message of sanctity of life through chalk art on the sidewalks around Mater Dei.



Jade Christ makes a statement with her chalk art.

SUPPORT COMMUNITY

To strengthen the bond with parents, Mater Dei hosts its Freshman Parent Orientation, Meet the Teachers Night, Parent Teacher Conferences, and in the spring hosts the Freshmen Welcome and Parent-Senior Mass and Banquet.



New and experienced parents attend the Freshman Parent Orientation

Mater Dei also builds relationships with Future Knights and their families through the Junior Knights program. This year the program includes 130 Future Knights!

The Junior Knights participated in a service project by donating canned food items at their Thanksgiving Event. Their donations will be added to the MD student body's canned food drive count.



The Alumni Channel (materdeialumni.org) is a website for Mater Dei alumni, family, and friends to strengthen relationships with classmates, network with other alumni, and communicate updated information.

PLANNED GIVING : ESTATE PLANNING

Where there's a Will there's a way to remember Mater Dei.

<p>The techniques of charitable gift planning include both revocable and irrevocable arrangements, gifts available for use at the time they are given and gifts that may not be available until a future date and split-interest gifts intended to balance financial, personal and charitable objectives. These techniques are called “<i>planned gifts</i>”.</p>		<p>PLANNED GIFTS, DEFERRED GIFTS, ESTATE GIFTS</p> <p>are different names for a way to manage your affairs, plan for the future, and make a gift to Mater Dei High School, Breese, Illinois. Planned gifts are a variety of charitable giving methods that allow you to express your personal values by integrating your charitable, family, and financial goals. Making a planned charitable gift usually requires the assistance of a knowledgeable advisor such as an attorney, financial planner, or Certified Public Accountant to help structure the gift.</p> <p><u>Donors should seek charitable gift planning advice from professionals</u> with integrity, expertise, and experience in law, investments, property, tax and charitable transfers in order to assure both the technical merits of the transfer and the philanthropic quality of the gift.</p>	
<p>Planned gifts can be made with cash, but many planned gifts are made by donating assets such as stocks, real estate, art pieces, or business interests – the possibilities are endless, considering all types of real and personal property and tangible and intangible assets. Planned gifts can provide valuable tax benefits and/or lifetime income for you and your spouse or other loved one. The most frequently-made planned gifts are bequests to charities, made through your will. Other popular planned gifts include charitable trusts and charitable gift annuities.</p>			
<p>WILLS AND BEQUESTS</p> <p>If you already have a Will – a Codicil is a written change or amendment that can be made to a Will.</p> <p>Bequests can be made for restricted or unrestrictive purposes.</p> <p>A Contingent Bequest can be made so one’s assets will go to who else is designated should the primary beneficiary not survive the donor.</p>	<p>CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES</p> <p>A charitable gift annuity is one of the easiest and most popular ways to make a charitable gift and supplement your income with fixed annual payments. You can establish a gift annuity with as little as \$5,000 using cash or securities or, in certain cases, property.</p>	<p>GIFTS OF APPRECIATED STOCK</p> <p>The gift of an appreciated asset, often common stock or mutual fund shares, is a valuable way to make a contribution to Mater Dei and receive tax benefits based on the value of the asset(s).</p> <p>You receive the benefit of the current stock price as a donation and do not have to pay taxes on the capital gain.</p>	
<p>TYPES OF CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS</p> <p>A charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT) is a popular way to achieve tax benefits as well as a fixed annual percentage on the value of the assets in the trust. The assets are revalued annually and, if the trust value changes, the payment to Mater Dei changes.</p> <p>A charitable remainder annuity trust (CRAT) is set up to pay a fixed rate of return based on the initial valuation at the time the property is placed in the trust. The trust assets are never revalued.</p>	<p>GIFTS OF RETIREMENT ASSETS</p> <p>Using qualified retirement plan funds is an excellent source of assets to fund bequests. By designating Mater Dei as a beneficiary (it can be a contingent beneficiary after the death of a spouse), funds can pass to Mater Dei free of taxes. It is possible to set up the beneficiary as the recipient of the entire remaining funds in the account or establish a percentage to fund the bequest.</p> <p>Note: The designation of Mater Dei as a beneficiary of retirement fund assets cannot be simply written in your will or trust. Mater Dei must be designated as a beneficiary of the retirement plan.</p>	<p>GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE</p> <p>You may wish to make Mater Dei the beneficiary (or a contingent beneficiary) of a life insurance policy as a way to make a sizeable future gift. You retain lifetime ownership of the policy, keeping the right to cash it in, borrow against it, and change the beneficiary.</p> <p>You will not receive an income tax charitable deduction for this future gift or for your premium payments during your lifetime. The policy’s proceeds will be included in your gross estate, and your estate can take an estate tax charitable deduction.</p> <p>You may wish to transfer ownership of a policy to Mater Dei, or purchase a new policy with Mater Dei as owner and beneficiary. If you make Mater Dei the owner and beneficiary of a policy, you are entitled to certain tax advantages.</p>	
<p>DEFERRED CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES</p> <p>Is a variation on a gift annuity. A gift is made and Mater Dei promises in return to pay you an income stream that begins on a future date you specify. Since the payments do not begin for a period of time, the fund will grow without withdrawals until the payments begin.</p> <p>With more money in the fund once payments begin, the payments will be larger than with an immediate annuity.</p>	<p>Official Title:</p> <p>Mater Dei Catholic High School</p> <p>Tax Identification Number:</p> <p>37-0776022</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Mater Dei Catholic High School</p> <p>900 Mater Dei Drive</p> <p>Breese, IL 62230</p> <p>(618) 526-7216</p>		

PLANNED GIVING : ESTATE PLANNING

Where there's a Will there's a way to remember Mater Dei.

<p><i>With Your Planned Gift</i></p> <p>you can help us in our Mission to nurture the spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, and social growth of our students in a caring environment that is respectful of individual differences while providing a comprehensive program that educates, fosters faith, and develops gospel values</p>	<p><i>Your Planned Gift</i> can play a major role in the legacy of Mater Dei by providing for the needs of today while securing the promise of tomorrow.</p>
<p><i>The Power of Planned Giving</i></p> <p>As a benefactor and friend of Mater Dei, you have the power to strengthen and protect Mater Dei: today, tomorrow and beyond.</p> <p>What's still more amazing, even a modest sized gift can make an enormous difference.</p>	<p><i>The Tools for Giving</i></p> <p>All the material things you've worked for—personal property, assets like retirement funds and insurance policies—are the tools of charitable gift planning, tools that allow you to express your beliefs and values. Planned gifts can also provide you with valuable tax benefits and even an additional source of income for life.</p>
<p><i>With a Planned Gift you can:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a larger charitable gift than you thought possible • Take care of the financial needs of your family first • Provide inheritances for your heirs at a lower tax cost • Reduce your income tax and even avoid capital gains taxes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversify your investment portfolio • Increase income and effective rate of return • Leave a legacy without giving up assets 	<p><i>With Your Planned Gift</i></p> <p>Mater Dei can continue to protect everyone's opportunities to learn, grow, adapt, enjoy, exercise their freedoms, and enhance their quality of life and provide the same opportunities for the generations that follow.</p>
<p><i>Chose the Gift that's Right for You</i></p> <p>Some individuals may choose to direct a gift to a specific purpose, such as support for student tuition assistance or an endowed scholarship, the needs of the educational fund, capital improvements, the Mater Dei Foundation, or a particular department, program or extra-curricular activity. Planned giving offers you several options.</p>	<p><i>Leave a Legacy... Be a Legacy</i></p> <p>As a donor, you are in control of your gift. You can designate it with a specific place or purpose in mind, or leave your gift unrestricted so we can apply it toward the areas of greatest need.</p> <p>When you inform us of your planned gift intentions, you become a member of our "Mother of Perpetual Help" Legacy Society which allows us to recognize you appropriately for your generosity, foresight, and dedication to Mater Dei Catholic High School.</p>

Take These Steps When Making a Planned Gift

1. Contact your attorney and your financial advisor. Let them know you are considering a planned gift to Mater Dei Catholic High School. He/she can assist you in determining what type of gift best suits your personal and financial circumstances.
2. Contact the Mater Dei Catholic High School Advancement Office at 618-526-7216, extension 108 (Fr. Chuck Tuttle) or 113 (Kathy Huelsmann), for more information about Mater Dei Catholic High School and the Mater Dei Foundation.
3. Be sure to talk to your family and friends about your plans and personal wishes in addressing family needs as well as your legacy gifts.

The information provided above is meant to help you begin the process of thinking about your estate planning. It is not professional legal or tax advice.

Please consult your legal and tax advisors regarding your specific situation.

A generous person is enriched through the act of giving.

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Mothers and Friends organization continues its mission of supporting Mater Dei's academic programs. The Mothers and Friends Dinner Auction is a fun and exciting evening as well as the Mothers and Friends' biggest fundraiser, raising nearly \$150,000 annually. This year's auction chairpersons, Jeff and Kristie Hitpas, and their committees are making plans for the March 25, 2017, event. The theme is Wild West Knights and attendees will be encouraged to dress to the theme! The Mothers and Friends organization extends its most heartfelt thanks for the Mater Dei communities' generous donations and participation in the auction, which has helped the group fund these items in recent years:

- \$80,000 annually towards department budgets, textbooks, and student assistance.
- \$30,000 towards a major renovation of the library into an Academic Learning Center. This is a large scale project that is projected to be implemented over the next several years.
- \$20,000 towards the purchase of a school bus.
- School improvements such as classroom desks, chairs, whiteboards, microscopes, calculators, lab supplies, and software.
- \$100,000 towards the capital campaign to renovate the outdoor multi-purpose field and replace school windows and roofs.

In addition to the auction, the Mothers and Friends organization hosts an annual Teacher Appreciation Lunch during Catholic Schools Week, a Christmas party to honor past presidents, and the post prom. In April 2016, 255 of the 270 students attending the prom stayed for The Knight Goes On post prom party! This event includes bubble soccer, dodge ball, life-size Jenga, attendance prizes, and a hypnotist, which is a crowd favorite, and more importantly, the post prom is a safe alternative to unsupervised activities.

The Mothers and Friends organization meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Lampe Commons.

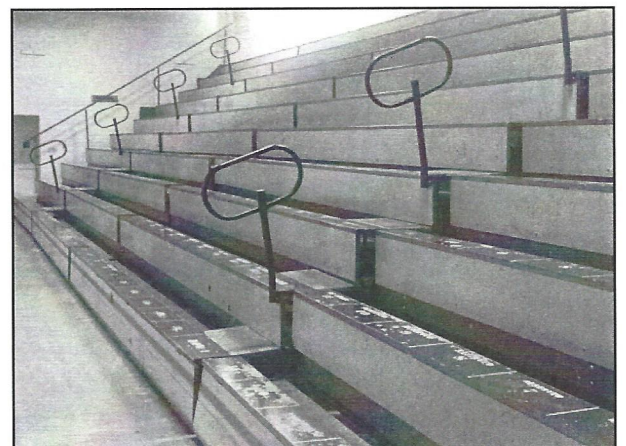


SAVE THE DATE FOR MARCH 25, 2017 and the Wild West Knights dinner auction! **Please Note:** The Fund-in-Need proceeds of this year's auction will go to the Fathers and Friends' project to replace the balcony bleachers.

The Fathers and Friends organization is in the midst of a major project to replace the outdated balcony bleachers in the varsity gym with new and safe bleachers. Work on the project is scheduled to begin the week after the Mothers and Friends auction in March when the old bleachers will be removed.

Thank you to all who participated in the Ford Drive-4-UR School fundraiser. The Fathers and Friends raised the maximum total of \$8,000 for its efforts. This money will be used for athletic projects and uniforms.

The Fathers and Friends monthly subscription raffle is still ongoing! For just \$12.00 a year you can have your name in the monthly raffle that benefits the mission of the Fathers and Friends.



The original balcony bleachers are to be replaced March 2017.

The Mater Dei Band Parents hosted a Glo Bingo on December 9 to raise funds for the Music department needs.



KNIGHTS EARN HIGHEST ACT SCORES



We are pleased to announce that our Class of 2016 earned exceptional average ACT Scores!

Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science
24.4	24.1	23.8	25.1	24.0

Scores for the members of our Class of 2016 who enrolled in a college preparatory curriculum (known as "core or more" - four years of English; three or more years each of math, science, and social studies)

Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science
25.7	25.7	25.2	26.2	25.1

ACT COLLEGE READINESS BENCHMARKS

We are also pleased to announce that the percentage of students from our Class of 2016 who achieved the college readiness benchmarks established by ACT surpassed the percentages of the state, as well as the percentages of Carlyle, Central, Centralia, Greenville, Highland, Lebanon, Mt. Vernon, O'Fallon, Salem, Triad, and Wesclin.

Through research with postsecondary institutions nationwide, ACT has established the following college readiness benchmark scores for each subject-area test as a means of more precisely measuring college readiness: English – minimum score of 18, Math – minimum score of 22, Reading – minimum score of 22, Science – minimum score of 23.

PERCENTAGE OF ACT-TESTED STUDENTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2016 WHO MET ACT COLLEGE READINESS BENCHMARKS

	English minimum 18	Math minimum 22	Reading minimum 22	Science minimum 23	Met All Benchmarks
Mater Dei	84	72	74	63	55
Carlyle	54.0	32.0	31.0	17.0	16.0
Central	65.1	41.1	45.0	40.3	29.5
Centralia	56.9	26.2	30.2	21.3	16.8
Greenville	69.9	43.1	44.7	30.9	26.0
Highland	68.8	42.5	49.4	40.1	29.6
Lebanon	55.6	24.4	31.1	31.1	20.0
Mt. Vernon	47.1	26.5	29.4	17.6	15.1
O'Fallon	79.0	58.3	59.0	50.6	42.0
Salem	58.0	35.7	36.3	26.1	20.4
Triad	66.1	44.5	40.8	39.7	25.3
Wesclin	65.0	43.0	44.0	36.0	27.0

NOTE: Data was obtained from the "Illinois Report Card 2015-2016" for each school (www.isbe.net – in "Schools A-Z" menu, under "Report Cards," select "PDFs").

HISTORY OF AVERAGE ACT COMPOSITE SCORES

Class	MDHS	State	Class	MDHS	State	Class	MDHS	State
'97	22.2	21.2	'04	22.0	19.6	'11	23.5	20.9
'98	22.3	21.4	'05	22.0	20.1	'12	23.7	20.9
'99	21.9	21.4	'06	22.0	20.3	'13	22.8	20.6
'00	22.2	21.5	'07	22.3	20.3	'14	24.4	20.7
'01	22.4	21.6	'08	22.7	20.7	'15	23.9	20.7
'02	21.7	20.1	'09	23.1	20.8	'16	24.4	20.8
'03	21.4	20.0	'10	23.3	20.7			

Mater Dei Catholic High School

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ADDRESS UPDATES REQUESTED

Don't forget to include Mater Dei in your list of friends to notify if you or someone in your family has a change of address. The Office of Institutional Advancement is making an effort to get updated information from alumni, parents, and friends, especially for those alumni in the 2000's who may have moved out of the house, started a new job, or were recently married, etc. Please call Mater Dei or email Kathy Huelsmann at mdhskathy@yahoo.com with the new information.

ATTENTION ALUMNI FROM THE 1990's - 2010's

When we analyze the class participation to the annual fund drive each year, we see a drop in the number of donors that begins in 1990 and continues into the new millennium. We would like to see that trend reversed and have the latest graduates increase their participation to demonstrate their support and commitment to Mater Dei and Catholic education. You can make a donation online by going to the Mater Dei website at materdeiknights.org or by using the remittance envelope included in this VITA. Thank you!